

**ANTITHROMBOTIC THERAPY**—Paul W. Boyles, M.D., Instructor in Medicine, University of Miami School of Medicine, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida; and Director, Coagulation Research Laboratory, Miami Heart Institute, Miami Beach, Florida. (Modern Medical Monographs, 20—Editor in Chief: Irving S. Wright, M.D.; Consulting Editor: Richard H. Orr, M.D.). Grune & Stratton, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1959. 131 pages, \$5.00.

This concise monograph contains a tremendous amount of information which is not apparent from the title. There are chapters on "The Mechanism of Blood Coagulation," "Clotting Tests," and the "Technic of Blood Coagulation" as well as chapters on the "Clinical Use of Antithrombotic Agents," and "Long Term Anticoagulant Therapy." In fact, the area encompassed may be too broad, which may be partly responsible for some errors, particularly in the sections on the coagulation mechanism. There are a few comments regarding that mechanism which are no longer tenable in view of recent experimental evidence. An example of this is the statement that SPCA is necessary for the activation of intrinsic thromboplastin.

The sections dealing with coagulation studies are good but unfortunately do not apply specifically to the control of anticoagulant therapy. No mention is made of the "thrombotest" recently (Owren, P.A.: Thrombotest: A New Method for Controlling Anticoagulant Therapy, *Lancet*, 2:754, 1959) introduced which has shown great promise and may become the test of choice in following patients receiving anticoagulants.

The chapters on anticoagulant therapy are adequate in that they briefly discuss the problems encountered in the anticoagulant management of myocardial infarction (both short and long term treatment), thrombophlebitis, embolism, and cerebral vascular disease. There is unfortunately no mention made of Polybrene,<sup>®</sup> the new anti-heparin agent.

Almost one third of the monograph is devoted to fibrinolytic therapy and a discussion of the various agents used. This is an unfortunate and excessive emphasis on an aspect of antithrombotic therapy in which there is as yet no satisfactory drug. Those in use are either ineffective, or dangerous, or both.

Finally, the bibliography is extensive but in the few instances in which it was checked, fails to document some of the statements made in the text.

This little book is of value in that it brings together in one volume most of the information necessary for the application of anticoagulant therapy.

\* \* \*

**OPEN REDUCTION OF COMMON FRACTURES**—Oscar P. Hampton, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor, Clinical Orthopedic Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis; and William T. Fitts, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Surgery, Schools of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Chief, Surgical Division II, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1959. 212 pages, \$8.75.

This 212 page comprehensive review on the Open Reduction of Common Fractures will prove of great value to surgeons interested in the operative care and repair of broken bones. However, I sincerely doubt that it will be of any help to the practitioner who treats occasional fractures. Very little attention is paid to the minute details which must be observed in carrying out a specific operative procedure. Thus, some previous experience in clinical orthopedics or traumatology at a teaching center is necessary in order to interpret and differentiate the approaches and selection of material. The authors show no prejudice against any one

procedure and no preference toward any other. They present a good selection of operative approaches to fractures that are best treated by open reduction. For this reason it makes excellent reading for the surgeon skilled in these various procedures. In addition, at the end of each section is presented a subdivision on "pitfalls and precautions" which is of great value to anyone interested in fracture treatment. These represent pragmatic suggestions on how to avoid trouble for both the patient and the surgeon. Finally it should be noted that the author's style is one of frugality with words. A tremendous amount of literary material has been condensed between the covers of this modern surgical monograph and as such it makes for very easy reading while the point in question is being clarified.

JOHN F. COWAN, M.D.

\* \* \*

**BIOPSY MANUAL**—James D. Hardy, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, University of Mississippi School of Medicine; James C. Griffin, Jr., M.D., Assistant Instructor in Surgery, Administrative Chief Resident in Surgery, National Cancer Institute Trainee, University of Mississippi School of Medicine, and Jorge A. Rodriguez, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgical Anatomy, The Dept. of Surgery, University of Mississippi School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 150 pages, \$6.50.

This is a very simple book which tells one how to do simple surgical techniques that are commonly employed by interns and residents for the establishment of surgical diagnoses. Biopsies of all areas of the body are discussed and illustrated, ranging from punch biopsies of the skin to needle biopsies of the liver to renal biopsies to excisions of nodules in the lung.

It is nice to have this material gathered together in one place. One could essentially learn all one needs from the book by browsing through it once and looking at the illustrations. I think it is the type of a book that should be available in the hospital library, but one that one wouldn't care to own particularly for his own library collection. It is far too simple and Dr. Hardy has essentially included this material in other books which he has written which are far more valuable for an individual to own.

This simple book, then, is recommended for staff libraries, but not for individual ownership.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

\* \* \*

**ACUTE PERICARDITIS**—David H. Spodick, M.D., Senior Physician and Chief, Cardiographic Laboratory of the Medical Services, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital; Clinical Survey Director, Department of Cardiology, The Boston Evening Clinic; Associate Fellow of the American College of Cardiology; Clinical Instructor in Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1959. 182 pages, \$6.50.

This book is an excellent clinical account of all varieties of pericarditis and their treatment. The compilation of material for this subject is of considerable value, because it is a subject which has been relatively neglected in cardiac literature. Spodick's coverage is primarily for the clinician and he discusses common and uncommon varieties of pericarditis, their clinical diagnosis and treatment. There is very little on modern hemodynamic or angiocardigraphic studies, nor is the subject of the possible role of pericarditis and myocarditis as a precursor of idiopathic hypertrophy discussed in any detail. With these reservations, the book can be highly recommended as an excellent appraisal of the problem which will be of primary value to the practicing physician.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.